



More than 100 bridge players from clubs throughout WA attended the Denmark Bridge Club's first congress at Ocean View.

Bridge congress milestone for club

DENMARK Bridge Club marked a milestone on the weekend of October 16-18 when it held its inaugural congress, attracting more than 100 players from clubs throughout WA to the Denmark Sea Rescue function centre, Ocean View.

The club became an incorporated body and affiliated with the Bridge Association of WA and Australian Bridge Federation just two years ago following a decision by a growing membership to formalise its structure and be involved with the wider bridge-playing community.

Through grants from Lotterywest and the Shire of Denmark, the club bought a computer and associated bridge-playing equipment, bringing it in line with established bridge clubs.

The club started as a small social group in the mid-70s.

In recent years players have met at the Denmark St John Ambulance headquarters, but moved this winter as the space was needed.

The community centre at the Amaroo Retirement Village in Denmark is the temporary base until the move into a permanent home at the Morgan Richards Community Centre in mid-November.

Club president John Elliot said there had been a small but dedicated group of players for several years, with numbers swelling in summer months with Perth residents escaping the heat.

"We expect numbers to continue to grow as more people choose Denmark as a retirement and holiday location.

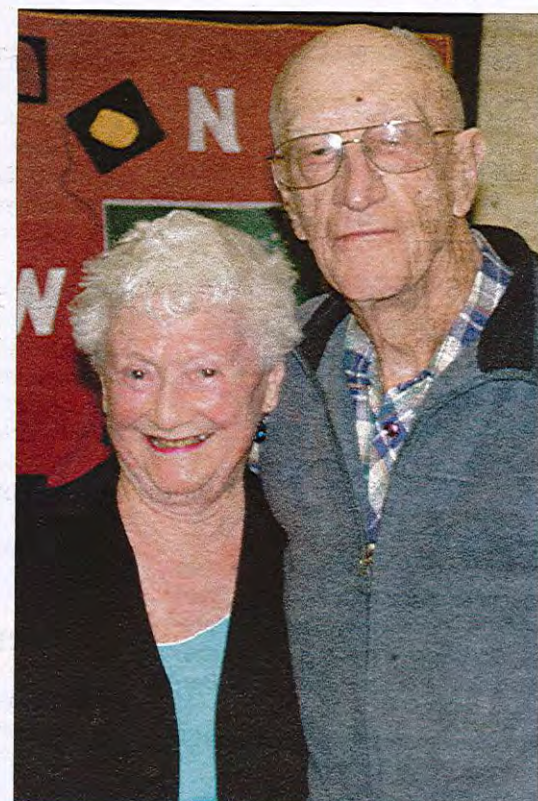
"We are also fortunate in having experienced bridge players to coach and mentor new players, which will add to our membership pool."

The club was pleased to secure the sea rescue centre as the venue for the first congress, as the spectacular setting added to the overall Denmark experience for players from Perth and other WA locations.

Members meet on Monday evenings and Thursday mornings and will soon trial a third session on Friday afternoons.



Bridge club president John Elliott with Pam Minchin, left, and Anne Lowe, winners of the pairs' final at the congress.



Wendy Livesey and Owen Stokes-Hughes were named best Denmark novice pair.